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EDWARD CONLEY

MOSCOW, PEKING AND DEVELOPING U.S. RELATIONS

ANNCR:

VOA'S EDWARD CONLEY HAS THIS REPORT ON HOW THE UNITED STATES VIEWS ITS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

VOICE:

AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD'S LARGEST COUNTRY -- THE SOVIET UNION -- AND THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY -- CHINA -- ARE "CARDINAL ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES' PURSUIT OF A MORE SECURE AND MODERATE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM". AND, WHILE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS CAN HAVE THEIR SETBACKS, OR NOT PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS SOME WOULD WANT, WASHINGTON SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO STEADILY INCREASE COOPERATION WITH THE TWO COMMUNIST POWERS.

THAT WAS THE MESSAGE BROUGHT TO A CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTE RECENTLY BY WINSTON LORD, DIRECTOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY PLANNING STAFF AND A MAN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WASHINGTON'S MOVES TO CREATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WORLD'S OTHER SUPERPOWERS. (OPT) MISTER LORD ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ON HIS SECRET MISSION TO PEKING WHICH INITIATED THE THAW IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. HE ALSO HAS ASSISTED DOCTOR KISSINGER DURING IMPORTANT NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. (END OPT)

MISTER LORD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS A GREAT INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY NATION CAPABLE OF EXERTING ITS INFLUENCE ON A GLOBAL SCALE. FOR HIS REASON, HE SAID, THE

UNITED STATES MUST PROCEED WITH ITS DUAL POLICY OF OPPOSING SOVIET ADVENTURISM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SEEKING MORE CONSTRUCTIVE BI-LATERAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR ARMS RESTRAINT.

WHILE CHINA HAS NOT YET ACHIEVED THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY MUSCLE OF THE SOVIET UNION, MISTER LORD OBSERVED, IT IS A COUNTRY OF SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY IN ASIA, WHERE THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR POWERS INTERSECT. POSITIVE SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, HE SAID, IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR PRESERVING GLOBAL EQUILIBRIUM. AND HE NOTED THAT THEY ALSO PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR BOTH NATIONS--COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ON BOTH SIDES, AND FOR PEKING, THE PROSPECT OF PROGRESS ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TOLD THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE THERE IS UNDERSTANDING BY WASHINGTON AND PEKING CONCERNING THE PACE AT WHICH RELATIONS HAVE EVOLVED....A PACE WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THIS WEEK DESCRIBED AS "CONSISTENT WITH THE AMERICAN NATIONAL INTEREST." MISTER LORD, IN HIS CAPITOL HILL APPEARANCE, SAID THE UNITED STATES SEES NO EVIDENCE THUS FAR THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IN THE CURRENT DOMESTIC CAMPAIGN IN CHINA. THE CHINESE, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO SIGNAL WASHINGTON IN A VARIETY OF WAYS OF THEIR INTEREST IN SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. WHILE THE BASIC DECISIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE, ACCORDING TO MISTER LORD, THERE IS CONFIDENCE THAT WITH MUTUAL EFFORTS PEKING AND WASHINGTON WILL MOVE AHEAD PROGRESSIVELY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES.

CONCERNING THE SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY, MISTER LORD EMPHASIZED IN HIS CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT COLLUDING WITH OR ACCOMMODATING ONE PARTY IN THE DISPUTE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO BE INSTRUCTED BY PEKING OR MOSCOW ON THE COURSE IT SHOULD ADOPT TOWARD EITHER OF THE TWO COMMUNIST RIVALS.

WHILE EXPLAINING WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE EASING OF TENSIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, MISTER LORD URGED THAT THE POLICY BE CONTINUED DESPITE WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE SETBACKS AND SLOWDOWNS. "WE HAVE DEEP DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND PURPOSES WITH BOTH THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE", HE SAID. "BUT, IN THE THERMONUCLEAR AGE THE UNITED STATES HAS AN OBLIGATION TO ITS OWN PEOPLE AND TO THE WORLD TO MOVE NOT ONLY FROM CONFRONTATION TO CO-EXISTENCE, BUT ONWARDS TO COOPERATION."

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